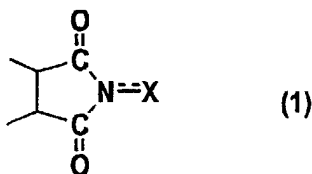


Appl. No. 09/980,588

AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. (currently amended) A process for preparing a reaction product which comprises the steps of

reacting a substrate selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon, an alcohol, an aldehyde, a ketone, an amine, a heterocyclic compound, a thiol, a sulfide, and an amide, with the proviso that said substrate is not an isoprenoid having an allylic group, in the presence of an imide compound having an imide unit represented by the following formula (1):



wherein X represents an oxygen atom, a hydroxyl group or an acyloxy group, thereby forming a reaction mixture, and subsequently

separating said reaction product and said imide compound from said reaction mixture by:

(A1) solvent-crystallizing the imide compound from said reaction mixture with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon, a chain ether and water, or

~~(A2) cooling-crystallizing the reaction product from said reaction mixture by cooling, or~~

~~(B) distributing the reaction product into a phase of a water insoluble solvent and distributing the imide compound into a phase of an aqueous solvent, respectively, by using an aqueous solvent containing at least water and a water-insoluble solvent separable from the aqueous solvent.~~

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2. (previously amended) The process of claim 1, wherein separation of said reaction product is by solvent-crystallization step (A1), in which the hydrocarbon is an aliphatic hydrocarbon having 4 to 16 carbon atoms or an alicyclic hydrocarbon having 4 to 16 carbon atoms, and the chain ether is a diC₁₋₆alkyl ether or a C₁₋₆alkyl C₆₋₁₀aryl ether.

3. (previously amended) The process of claim 2, wherein the imide compound is an aromatic imide compound, and the reaction product is an oxidation reaction product of an alicyclic hydrocarbon or an alicyclic alcohol and is soluble in the solvent for crystallization in the solvent-crystallization step (A1).

4.-17. (cancelled).

18. (previously amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the imide compound is an oxidation catalyst for oxidizing the substrate, and the reaction product is an oxidation reaction product corresponding to the substrate.